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HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

P/ The committee charged with producing a history of the American Dental Association and the historian working on this project would like to collect more original documents. An effort will be made to discover material on the early history of dental societies which, according to Dr. B. W. Weinberger, should be found in the Army Medical Library. The Bureau of Library and Indexing Service is now organizing the record material in the Association archives and is desirous of adding to its incomplete early records. Past officers, council members, committeemen and any persons holding documentary material bearing on the history of the Association are urged to correspond with Dr. Donald Washburn, director of the Library, Central Office, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago 11.

STILL MORE ABOUT TOOTHBRUSHES

P/ Accumulating information in the editor's mail indicates that he has overlooked considerable obvious material on the history of the toothbrush. B. W. Weinberger, in the second volume of his Introduction to the History of Dentistry, reproduces advertisements of Isaac and John Greenwood and of Josiah Flagg, showing toothbrushes of a modern pattern (p. 128, 131, 132, 200, 203, 228, 229) as early as 1788 to 1795.

Dr. Curt Proskauer has contributed a photograph of an illustration of an eighteenth century toothbrush in an article by him in the Beitrage of Zahnarztliche Mitteilungen, 1933. The toothbrush has a silver handle and is from the time of Frederick the Great (about 1730).

The editor was aware of the illustration in Weinberger's Introduction, vol. 1, p. 44, of a Chinese toothbrush of great antiquity, reproduced from Proskauer's article in Ciba Symposia (see Bulletin, no. 5, May 1954), but he has always questioned the influence of early Oriental dentistry on that of Western Europe. Upper dentures with palates must have existed in Japan hundreds of years before their appearance in Europe or America if the specimens exhibited by Dr. Isamu Tashiro at the Atlantic City meeting of the A.D.A. were correctly dated. No connection between these advanced dental developments in the Orient and those late in the Western World, separated by at least two centuries, have ever been traced.

The Journal of the Colorado State Dental Association (32:8-15, June 1954) contains an article by Max Giesecke on "Development of the toothbrush."

DEVELOPMENT OF ORTHODONTICS

P/ The American Journal of Orthodontics for April (40:272-280) contains an article on "Orthodontic trends--past and present" by Dr. H. C. Pollock. The July 1954 number of the same journal publishes a long letter from B. W. Weinberger (40:549-551) supplementing Dr. Pollock's views.

ANGELO MARIA DE VERGANI

P/ The request (June Bulletin) concerning the dentist Angelo Maria de Vergani has been in some measure answered by Dr. Curt Proskauer. Apparently Vergani published a book in French entitled Observations sur les dents et leurs maladies..., Venice, 1809.

"In the catalogue MEDECINE ANCIENNE by Il Polifilo (Cat. XVII) I found under no. 197: De Vergani, A.M.--osservazioni sopra i denti e le loro malattie. Firenze, Carli, 1815. In-8, cart. 28 pp. Edition originale (This is, however, a mistake, since this is the Italian translation of the above mentioned book.)"

The catalogue continues:

"A. M. de Vergani, medecin du Grand-Duc de Toscane, n'oublie pas de publier les temoignages de nombre de personnages soignes par lui. A la fin de l'ouvrage, l'auteur a laisse une place en blanc, pour pouvoir y marquer son adresse provisoire, en quelque pays qu'il se trouvat."

Recently, a manuscript has been offered by a London bookseller:

VERGANI (A.M.) Dissertation sur les dents et leurs maladies, ou l'on demontre que l'art du dentiste forme und des branches interessantes de la medecine. Par Angelo Maria de Vergani ci-devant chirurgien-dentiste de S. M. Le Roi de Hollande. S.l.n.d. (c. 1800). 4to. Boards. Manuscript of 30 ff. Of extreme interest for the history of dentistry. After discoursing on the function of teeth, their diseases and their care, the author attacks at length the prejudice which prevents a large number of people from using artificial teeth, one of the principal obstacles being that they imagine these teeth to be drawn from human corpses. We can find no record of this author, who, from the position he held, was evidently a dentist of eminence. The manuscript was probably prepared for the press.

Dr. Proskauer comments to the effect that this manuscript "was not 'probably prepared for the press,' it was the manuscript which is certainly identical with the book published in 1809."